

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

The SWORD of the LORD

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

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-The Weeping Christ-

By Rev. Zeno Wall, D.D.
Pastor, First Baptist Church, Shelby, N. C.

"And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it."—Luke 19:41.

Christianity is a heart religion. It is, in fact, the only heart religion in the world. It begins in the heart and moves up through the head, shaping all thought, and out through the hands and feet and lips, regulating all activity and inspiring all speech. Christ did not make His first appeal to the intellectual faculty of man, saying, "Comprehend Me"; nor did He make His second appeal to the reverential faculty of man, saying, "Adore Me." But He made His first appeal to the emotional

faculty of man, saying, "Love Me."

Christ never intended that man should be able to comprehend Him with his mind, but He did intend that he should love Him with his heart, loving Him because He first loved us. "Jesus," as Dr. Mullins used to tell us, "is the flying goal of society. Every time, therefore, man thinks that he is about to overtake Him, He moves up into higher and holier realms."

Christ placed the emphasis upon the heart rather than upon the head. His heart was ever entwined about all that He did and said; and, in the end, 'He died of a broken heart.' Our hearts, my brethren, must become more vitally linked up with the work of the Lord, which we are doing, if it is to assume those attractive and effective proportions which the Holy Spirit would have it assume.

And Christ thought it not a sign of weakness to weep. Yes, He actually shed tears; and not one time did He apologize for them.

Christ wept over an individual, He wept over the city, and He wept over a lost world. When He came to the grave of Lazarus and beheld the havoc that sin had played, He wept; and when He beheld the city of Jerusalem, He, as Dr. Robertson says, "burst suddenly into tears over it;" and as He looked out upon a lost world "with strong crying and tears,"

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Dr. Zeno Wall

THE PLACE OF PRAYER IN REVIVALS

By Evangelist Joe Henry Hankins, D.D.
Pine Bluff, Arkansas

(Preached at Conference on Evangelism, Winona Lake, Indiana, Wednesday, July 18, 1945.)

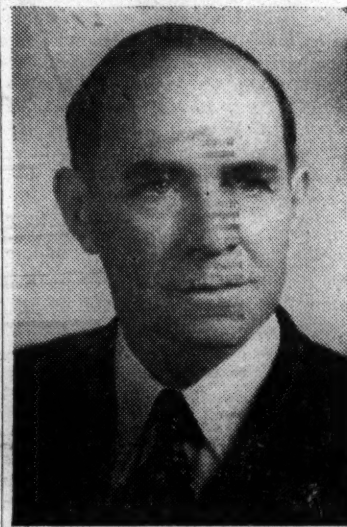
I want to read two or three passages of Scripture for the basis of this message. In the twenty-fourth chapter of the Gospel of Luke and the forty-ninth verse, Jesus speaks these words to His disciples, "And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high."

Then in the first chapter of the book of Acts, verses 13 and 14, we have this statement after Jesus had been taken up into Heaven, "And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James. These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren."

Then I want to call your attention to some very striking words in the fourth chapter of the book of Acts. When persecution broke out, the first case of persecution, Peter and John were arrested and taken before the Sanhedrin. They were threatened and turned loose and commanded not to preach any more in the name of Jesus. Then they went back to the church. I have often wondered what would happen in a church today if the pastor were arrested, taken into

court, beaten, and threatened with death if he preached any more in the name of Christ. The first thing we would do, I think, would be to get up a petition to the mayor of the town to stop such foolishness, or to send a petition to the governor of the state; but this crowd took their case to the Supreme Court of the universe. In the thirty-first verse we read, "And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness." And then in the thirty-third verse: "And with great power gave the apostles witness of

the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all."



Dr. Joe Henry Hankins

World Conflict Ends but War for Souls Goes On

DYING MAN, SOLDIER IN FOXHOLE, YOUNG MARRIED WOMAN, FEDERAL PRISONER: REPRESENTATIVE OF THOSE SAVED THROUGH SWORD LITERATURE

By Viola Walden, Business Manager, Sword of the Lord

With the declaration of peace necessarily comes a certain complacency, but we as Christians must rouse ourselves to the realization that the battle for the Lord must continue. Souls are still dying, lost forever. Since peace has been declared, some results have been reaped from the superb wartime effort of Christians, but for continued results we must exert ourselves to the limit. During the war, hearts were softened by grief and anxiety, but carelessness and gaiety are fast becoming the attitudes of the victory hour. While sorrow still holds sway in hearts of those who have lost loved ones, and while bewilderment confuses many returning from the far parts of the globe, we can make far advances for our Lord.

I often wish that you who read the Sword of the Lord could sit down with us and read the mail day by day. How you would be stirred to the depths of your souls if you could read the accounts of happy conversions through our literature, the burdened request of those who want to be saved, the pleas of mothers and fathers for their children, and the delightful testimonies of how Christians have been blessed! Fifty-seven conversions were reported to us during the month of August. Fifty-two were from Dr. Rice's twenty-four

page booklet, "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" one from the Backslider booklet, one from the book (Continued on page 7)



The 24-page booklet, "What Must I Do to Be Saved?"

MORE ABOUT SALVATION

By Rev. Oswald J. Smith, D.D., Litt.D.

Pastor, The Peoples Church, Toronto, Canada

(Continued from last week.)

Baptism and the Lord's Supper

Many people think they are saved by what they call the sacraments or ordinances of the church, namely, baptism and the Lord's supper.

Was the thief on the cross baptized? Did he ever partake of the Lord's supper? Yet he was saved, for Christ said, "Today shalt thou be with me in paradise." And if one could be saved without baptism, all can, for baptism is not a saving ordinance.

How about Cornelius? Was he saved before he was baptized or after? The Bible says before. As a matter of fact, the Holy Spirit fell upon him, and he spoke in tongues. He believed, was granted repentance, and was saved. And only after all that had happened was he baptized.

Perhaps you are thinking of the question and answer in the Catechism: "Who gave you this name? My sponsors in baptism: wherein I was made a member of Christ, the child of God and an inheritor of the Kingdom of Heaven."

But don't you know that the

answer was given by fallible man and not by God? It isn't in the Bible. It isn't inspired. God never said it. And you know it isn't true. Surely you have enough intelligence to know that a few drops of water sprinkled on you in infancy could never save your soul. Could you conceive of the great God of the universe devising such a stupid plan for man's salvation?

Suppose you go on in your sin after you have been baptized, are you still saved? Does not salvation deliver you, change you, and make you a new creature? "Thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins" (Matt. 1:21). Not in their sins, mark you, but from their sins. And if you are not saved from sin, you are not saved at all. Can baptism do that? Does the Lord's supper make such a change?

Away with such a thought. All that you can do is vain, utterly vain. You are baptized because you are saved, not in order to be saved, just as you unite with the church and partake of the communion, not in order to be saved, but because you have been saved.

Christians, not sinners, are baptized; and Christians not sinners, partake of the Lord's supper. John Wesley says, "I took communion every week," and yet he admits that it was years after before he was saved. Church ordinances do not save; you are saved by Christ and Christ alone.

Blood

A lot of people think they can be saved without the shedding of blood.

(Continued on page 4)



Dr. Oswald J. Smith

Dr. R. A. Torrey used to say, "I have a theory and I believe it to be true, that there is not a church, chapel, or mission on earth where you cannot have a revival, provided there is a little nucleus of faithful people who will hold on to God until it comes."

Four men brought the revival to all the north of Ireland, in 1859. Two were farmers, one a blacksmith and one a school teacher. These four men held on to God week after week. Though at first there did not seem to be any results, the fire came at last. Ireland, Scotland and Wales were shaken by the power of God. That has always been the experience of God's people through the ages.

God not only wants His people to pray, but He also wants them to agonize in prayer. I have this conviction, a conviction as deep as my soul, that there never was and there never will be a real Holy Ghost, Heaven-sent revival until God's people agonize in prayer. I just do not believe that one ever comes any other way. When there is a revival, somebody has paid the price on his knees, maybe just one man or one woman. Yes, I believe that one person who is willing to stay at the throne of grace until God opens the windows of Heaven, one person who prays in the spirit of the song, "I Would Not Be Denied," can bring a revival from Heaven. I think Pentecost, I know Pentecost would have come had nobody prayed. I have heard preachers say that Pentecost would never have come if it had not been for that prayer meeting. God had spoken all through the Old Testament of this day of Pentecost. Jesus had promised it. But I tell you, I think it would have been a day without conversions and without the results if God's people had not prayed. I think that ten days and ten nights in the upper room was directly the cause of three thousand conversions that day.

If I could stand before old Simon Peter, I would not take one bit of the honor, the glory, the credit from that great preacher of God for those three thousand souls that day. But I think that Peter would tell you and me that we have given him far too much credit for what happened that day. Peter's preaching was only the climax of something else; just a cap stone, if you please, of the praying that day. Ten days of prayer, the outpouring of the Spirit of God, then the 120 people in the power of the Holy Ghost gave testimony in at least fifteen different languages of the mighty work of God in their own lives. And when that was finished, Peter got up and preached. Who couldn't preach at a time like that! Three thousand souls were saved!

I. The Bible Is Full of Examples of Revivals in Answer to Prayer.

The fact is, every revival recorded in the Word of God, as far as I have been able to ascertain, was preceded by prayer, came in on the wings of prayer.

The other night I sat down and read through the book of Judges. Again and again I ran across this statement: 'Israel sinned against

God,' 'served the gods of the Amorites and the Canaanites,' and so on. But when Israel cried to God, God raised up a deliverer. The revival came when the cry to God came from the heart of His people.

In the seventh chapter of I Samuel is a record of a mighty revival in Israel. If you read that entire account you will find that Israel was just about at rock bottom; they had gone down to the depths. I mean that everything was gone. Twice the Philistines had come in like a flood and plundered and murdered and burned everything. They had taken all their weapons away from them. They had reduced them to abject poverty. But Samuel, the man of God, called a meeting of the elders of Israel. The first thing they did was to confess their sins. They brought water and poured it out before the Lord, which typified the pouring out of their souls before God and the dedication of everything in them to God. Then Samuel killed the sucking lamb and took the blood of the atoning sacrifice, put it on the altar of God, lifted his heart to God in prayer. Just at that time the Philistines heard of the gathering of the leaders of Israel and they said, 'Now is the time to fall on them and blot them out. We will be through with this crowd forever now. They have all their leaders together and at one stroke we can be rid of them.' Then the Philistines came into view, and, the record says, "But God . . ." There is the turning point every time to the children of God, when God steps in. But God! But God! thundered from Heaven upon the Philistines.

It is different now. God's people, who have been the helpless victims of these same enemies before, have now confessed their sin. They have now laid themselves on the altar for God. They now come back again to the blood and put their sins once again under the blood. And they are praying, led by that great prophet, Samuel. God thundered from Heaven, confusion took hold of the Philistines, and they fell on one another and slew one another in full view of the people of God, in answer to prayer and a confession of sin by the people of God and dedication of life and a putting of themselves under the blood again. Brother, I believe it will do the job anywhere, any time, with any people.

Read the revival under Nehemiah. When God's people had been carried away captive, Jerusalem had been destroyed and the temple had been torn down, word came to Nehemiah in the palace of Shushan. It broke his heart even though he himself was well established, with a fine position for life. As far as material things were concerned, he would never want for anything. But there was something to Nehemiah that was greater than material security. We talk about security. We hear it on every hand today and people talk about security from the cradle to the grave. I know of the security that America needs. Jesus Christ said that if you will seek first the kingdom of God and all His righteousness, all these other things will be added unto you. We need faith enough in Him who made the promise to

put Him first, and the cause of a lost world first, and trust Him for all the rest. Nehemiah sat down and fasted and wept and prayed until God from Heaven moved upon the heart of the heathen king. God is still able to make the wicked praise God. God is still able to turn the devices of men to praise God.

I shall never forget when I was just a lad I read the story of that negro slave orator, Frederick Douglass. To my thinking he was one of the greatest negro orators ever born in America. One day it is said that Frederick Douglass was addressing a group of his people. He was very much discouraged, sounding a low note, feeling in his heart that there was no future for his people and that they would never again see the light of freedom's hour. Right in the midst of his speech that day a dear old negro woman who loved the Lord and knew Him in an experience of grace, rose in the back of the house and raised her hand and said, "Mr. Douglass, may I ask you one question?"

The negro orator said, "Yes, you may."

She said, "Mr. Douglass, am God dead?"

The orator was dumbfounded. He stood a moment speechless and said, "Why, no, surely God is not dead!"

Then she said, "Might I ask you one more question, then? Am you a child of God?"

The orator said, "Yes, I am. Praise the Lord!"

Then she said, "Mr. Douglass, as long as God lives, no child of His need despair."

God is still on His throne. He is still able. Oh, "I am with you always," said my Lord Jesus. Not 'You go and I will go with you'; Not 'I will go with you,' but 'I am with you.' Brother, that means a lot more to me than 'I will go with you.' It is that eternal presence, "I am."

When Nehemiah prayed, God moved upon the heart of a heathen king. God provided an open door. God provided not only permission to rebuild the city of Jerusalem, but God provided through that heathen king the resources for the task. They went back and builded again for God. Then Nehemiah finished the walls of Jerusalem and called the people together. Oh, how interesting it is to read in that ninth chapter of that book how the revival really came.

The first thing the people did was to humble themselves before God. They clothed themselves in sackcloth and ashes, which signified not only humility, but also signified the confession of their absolute helplessness before God and their absolute dependence upon Him.

Then they separated themselves from all strangers. Oh, how we need to learn a lesson here. Separation! Separation!

Then for a fourth part of the day they stood up and read out of the Book of God, and for a fourth part of the day they confessed their sins. Wouldn't you like to be in one more real old-time confession meeting, not where people stand up and say, "If I have done so and so I hope the Lord will forgive me," but where people stand face to face

with their sins under the power of God and come clean for God?

In the fourth chapter of Acts is another example. In the jail of Philippi is another Biblical example of the coming of the mighty power of God in answer to prayer. Paul had not accomplished much by his preaching in Philippi. About all that he had accomplished was the conversion of a few women and getting himself in jail. But at the midnight hour while Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises to God, an earthquake came. The doors of the prison were opened, and every man's bands were loosed. A revival started in the Philippi jail in answer to prayer.

II. The Bible Full of Promises of Revival in Answer to Prayer.

The Bible is not only full of examples of revival in answer to prayer, but the Bible is full of promises of revival and the power of God in answer to prayer. I put the two together because to me they are absolutely inseparable and synonymous. A revival means the power of the Holy Spirit coming upon the people of God. That is what it means to me. You can organize, you can preach, you can sing, you can have enthusiasm, you can have tent meetings, but you can have no revival without God's power. The trouble is that so many times we go far afield, that we substitute pep many times for power. But to me there is no revival until the power of God comes upon the meeting. The two are synonymous. The only worry I ever have about a revival campaign is in waiting until the power of God comes. When the power of God comes, I do not worry about it any more. When God opens the floodgates, when God opens the windows of Heaven, when people can feel the thrill and the grip of the power of the divine Spirit, the revival has broken through, the beach-head has been established, victory is in sight; but not until then, not until then!

In II Chronicles 7:14 is that blessed promise, to "my people, which are called by my name." And I stop here to say that you can search the pages of God's Book and you will find that the people of God have always held the key. Do not blame the sinners around us for lack of revival. Do not blame anything on the outsiders. The people of God hold the key. "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

The reason we have such sin and such a flood of ungodliness is that there is not enough salt. A great deal of that which we have has lost its savor. When Abraham stood yonder with the angel of God on that hill overlooking Sodom and Gomorrah, Abraham said to that angel of God, "Wilt thou also destroy and not spare the place for the fifty righteous that are therein?"

God's answer was, "If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes."

I believe Abraham was thinking about Lot and his family who had been in Sodom all these years. He must have thought, "Surely Lot has won fifty people to God down there in these years." But then Abraham's courage failed. After God had said He would spare it for fifty, Abraham remembered what a selfish fellow Lot was, what a materially-minded fellow he was, what a contentious sort of a person he was, how worldly-minded he was; and Abraham must have said to himself: "Well, I am afraid that maybe Lot has not won fifty. Maybe I had better cut it down to forty." Then he asked the Lord if He would spare the city if forty righteous could be found.

The Lord answered, "I will not destroy it for forty's sake."

His heart failed him again, knowing what he did about Lot:

how he tried to cheat him, how he tried to take advantage of him. He said, 'Lord, wouldn't you spare it for thirty?'

'I will not destroy it if I find thirty there.'

'For twenty?'

'Yes, for twenty I will spare Sodom.'

Then old Abraham must have thought, "Well, surely old Lot has won as many as ten during all these years he has been down there. He has a family of his own, with five or six children. Surely he has won them and a few others." He said, 'Lord, wouldn't you spare it for ten?'

'Yes, for ten.'

But Lot had so completely failed God that he had not won his own family. And Sodom and Gomorrah went down under the curse of God and the judgment of God because a family had failed. The key is in the hands of the people of God. "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

And again I call your attention to that promise in Luke 24:49, "... tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high."

I am not much of a theologian, but I believe the Bible, and the Lord made this promise in Luke 11:13: "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?" I believe with all of my heart in asking God for that divine power. I believe that God will give it in answer to prayer. You can talk about the Holy Spirit indwelling the believer—I believe that; you can talk about the Holy Spirit's being here upon the earth in this age to guide the church—I believe that; but I believe that a special outpouring and a special filling of the Spirit of God is given in answer to prayer, and without that we shall never have a revival.

III. Christian History Is Full of Examples of Revivals in Answer to Prayer.

Then let me close my message by saying this: not only is the Bible full of the promises of this power and the promises of revival and the promises of victory in answer to prayer, but history is full of examples of the people of God from the day of Pentecost until now. Let me read you one or two testimonies.

One testimony is taken from the autobiography of Charles G. Finney. A tract had fallen into his hands, deeply impressing him; and he was speaking of the need of a revival being rekindled that had already started and died down. He said, "... this article set me into a flood of weeping. I was at that time boarding with Mr. Gale, and I took the article to him. I

(Continued on page seven)

SENDING OUT BIBLES

"I have been sending out Bibles to the camps and prisons for Russian prisoners. Now 500 have been distributed, and of these, 200 were given free of charge. I believe we shall have much work since the war is over, for the Russians are very hungry for the Bread of Life. . . ."

"I am having meetings for Russians on Sundays in my home. The Lord is blessing, and I rejoice." So writes our aged worker in France.

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The Weeping Christ

(Continued from page 1)

He prayed until "his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground."

Did Christ o'er sinners weep,
And shall our cheeks be dry?
Let floods of penitential grief,
Burst forth from every eye.

The Son of God in tears,
The wondering angels see;
Be thou astonished, O my soul,
He shed those tears for thee.

As you go back to your villages and cities, go back to agonize over them rather than to criticize them. It is so easy to find fault with the mayor and board of aldermen and police force and fire department, and, hence, to criticize. We have, no doubt, all criticized, now let's go back to agonize, yea to have such deep and vital concern for our city or village that we will weep over it.

Did you ever stop and ask, why was Christ weeping over the city of Jerusalem? He, we all know, was not weeping because He had sinned. Esau wept because he had sold his birthright, and Peter wept because he had denied his Lord, but Jesus had not sinned: "but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." Oh, the many tears which have been and are being shed because somebody, somewhere, has sinned!

He was not weeping because He had lost something, as is so often the case with ourselves: maybe job or home or health or loved ones. Repeatedly I have wept with my members as they have lost their homes by fire or failure or flood; and, a few times, I have wept with big men because they have lost their wealth. But Jesus came to live independently of this world, came to focus the attention of men upon the other world and to provide a way into it, saying, "The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head;" and again, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

Christ, as I see it, was weeping because the people themselves were lost; because they were abusing, neglecting, and misusing His Father's house; because they had lost their opportunity; and because of what He saw ahead for them.

I

He was weeping, in the first place, because He recognized that the citizens of Jerusalem were lost. Jesus employed four ugly words as He talked about man's condition in this world and the world to come, and those four words were: sin, lost, death, and Hell. Repeatedly He spoke of the lost ones, and He clearly illustrated what He meant by being lost as He talked about the blind, the lepers, the devil-possessed, the prodigal son, and Dives.

Blind Bartimaeus, sitting by the roadside begging, is a good illustration of what is meant by being lost. He had eyes, but he could not see.

The leper had both a loathsome and an incurable disease, and one which separated him from society.

Are you lost? Do you have to live in isolation? Do you want to get away from everything and everybody?

The woman whose daughter was "grievously vexed with a devil," is another illustration of what Jesus meant by being lost.

Yes, her daughter was lost in her own home because she was in no condition to help with the work and because she made life unbearable for everyone in the house.

The devil-possessed man in "the country of the Gadarenes," dwelling in tombs, "and always, night and day, he was in the mountains . . . crying, and cutting himself with stones," is another illustration of a lost man: lost to God, lost to his home, and lost to his community.

But one of the most arresting illustrations of what the Lord meant by being lost is seen in the rich man who pulled down his old barns and built greater ones and filled his barns with the products of his farms and then said unto himself: "Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?"

A lost person, according to Jesus, is one who has eyes but he cannot see; a lost person is one whose ears are heavy; a lost person—leperlike—is one who has no feeling; a lost person—like the devil-possessed girl—is one whose home life is miserable; a lost person—like the demoniac—is one who is a menace to society; and a lost person—like the rich fool—is one who tries to feed his soul upon material things.

And Jesus helped nearly every one of them: the blind received sight, the lame walked, the lepers were cleansed, the deaf heard, the sick were healed, the dead were raised, and the poor had the gospel of liberating love preached to them.

It is an awful thing to be lost—lost to God, lost to the home, and lost so far as the community is concerned.

Some years ago I helped our brethren in Atlanta, Georgia, in a season of simultaneous revival meetings conducted in sixty different churches. One day I was asked to go to Five Points, at the noon hour, and speak in the open to the people as they hurried by in

five different directions. As I stood there waiting for the tone signal, I found this question kept coming to me: Why are you standing here? Do you have any message that will help a busy person if he stops? And as quick as a flash this answer came: I'm standing here because I believe that men, outside of Christ, are lost; that I have something to save lost men with, something to save them from, and something to save them to: a life of usefulness in this world and an endless life of joy and peace in the world to come. I could, therefore, preach with freedom, passion, and power.

II

Jesus was weeping, in the second place, because the people of that day were neglecting, abusing, and misusing His Father's house; yea, they had converted it into a house of merchandise, a place where they were buying and selling and cheating.

There were three things that were very close to the heart of Jesus:

His Father's will
His Father's Word, and
His Father's house.

Listen as He says, "I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me." He was ever concerned about doing His Father's will. He, too, loved His Father's Word, and at the close of His Word said, "I have given them thy word."

During World War I, I had some wonderful experiences with our soldiers as I tried to serve as chaplain. One day a fine lad came to my tent to show me a picture of his mother and a leaf which she had clipped from her Bible. As we talked he said, "I can just see my dear mother back home now reading her Bible."

As quick as a flash this thought came to me: When I get back home I am going to urge parents to hang two pictures in memory's hallway of every child:

First, mother reading the Word of God;
Second, father kneeling in prayer.

If we parents will send our children out into the world with these two pictures, they will rarely ever go wrong.

The other thing that was close to the heart of Jesus was His Father's house. It hurt Him to see it abused, neglected, converted into a trading center.

Brethren, let's build and beautify our Father's house and plant shrubbery and flowers about and lift up Christ and see Him draw all men unto Himself.

III

Jesus was weeping, in the third place, because the people of that day had lost their golden opportunity: "If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes."

Individuals, thank God, have an opportunity—maybe many opportunities—but if they keep saying, "No," to the Holy Spirit, the day will come when the Holy Spirit will be gone, and for all time, too. Cities and nations have their opportunities. But if they, like Sodom and Gomorrah, if they like Tyre and Sidon, if they like Nineveh and Babylon keep saying, "No," to God and His messengers, they, too, will pass away and be no more.

Listen as Ezekiel tells of the destruction of Tyre:

"They shall break down thy walls, and destroy thy pleasant houses: and they shall lay thy stones and thy timber and thy dust in the midst of the water. And I will cause the noise of thy songs to cease; and the sound of thy harps shall be no more heard. And I will make thee like the top of a rock; thou shalt be a place to spread nets upon; thou shalt be built no more."—Ezk. 26:12-14.

Hear God as He tells what is going to take place in Nineveh:

"He . . . will make Nineveh a desolation, and dry like a wilderness. . . . This is the rejoicing city that dwelt carelessly, that said in her heart, I am, and there is none beside me: how is she become a desolation, a place for beasts to lie down in! every one that passeth by her shall hiss, and wag his hand."—Zeph. 2:13-15.

And as for Babylon listen as God says:

"And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees' excellency, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. It shall never be inhabited, neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation: neither shall the Arabian pitch tent there; neither shall the shepherds make their fold there. But wild beasts of the desert shall lie there; and their houses shall be full of doleful creatures; and owls shall dwell there, and satyrs shall dance there."—Isa. 13:19-21.

The Christian scholars, standing on the ruins of Tyre, Nineveh, Babylon, and Egypt, hear and understand the voices of the prophets, and they know that every city in our land has an opportunity to receive Christ and entertain Him and love Him and follow Him.

IV

Christ was weeping because of what He saw out ahead. He saw two things: the complete destruction of the city and all the children within it, "For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side, and shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation."

What startling statements: Your

civilization is going to fall, and the rising generation be destroyed with it!

Brethren, the religious condition in the world today is appalling!

Unless we can get our people to repent of their sins and turn, in humility, to the Lord Jesus Christ, we are doomed. It is Christ or chaos. It is either Christ, the eternal Rock of the Ages, or it will be the awful blackouts of the Dark Ages. Which shall it be? We have the answer. Would to God that we might weep over the lost in our cities and towns and counties and that we might pray and plan and work till a brighter day dawns.

By weeping Jesus won, and by working and weeping, we too can win. "He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him."

(From the book, HEARTENING MESSAGES, published by Broadman Press, Nashville, Tenn., 179 pages, price \$1.50. Used by the kind permission of these Christian friends, and with grateful thanks.)

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..ABOUT SALVATION

(Continued from page one)

But God says that "Without shedding of blood is no remission."—Heb. 9:22.

"When I see the blood, I will pass over you."—Ex. 12:13.

"It is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul."—Lev. 17:11.

"Ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold . . . But with the precious blood of Christ."—I Peter 1:18-19.

So then, there is no salvation apart from blood.

Adam and Eve tried to cover themselves with fig leaves, but God provided coats of skins which necessitated the death of an animal, thus portraying the blood that was to be shed by Christ on Calvary.

Cain brought to God the first fruits of the field and was rejected. Abel offered a lamb and was accepted. Blood had to be shed.

Moses instituted the Passover, when a lamb was slain and the blood sprinkled on the doorposts, and all down through the centuries millions of animals were offered in sacrifice and their blood shed, thus typifying the death of Christ.

Up until Calvary, the Israelites looked forward and in faith offered their sacrifices. Christ has

now died, His blood has been shed. Today we look backward, and rest our faith on the Word of God, which tells us that the blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth from all sin.

The blood may be repugnant to you now, but, once you are saved, it will become precious. You will realize that Christ had to shed His blood in order to atone for your sin.

What You Must Do

Perhaps you think that because God has provided salvation there is nothing for you to do.

What a mistake! Can you not see that you must accept God's offer? The Bible says, Choose, Take, Receive. I may offer you a glass of water, but you must take it. You will have to receive Jesus Christ if you are ever to be saved. It is one thing for the doctor to prescribe medicine for you, but what good will it do you unless you take it?

Oh, my friend, take Christ. "As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God" (John 1:12). But only those who receive Him are His sons and daughters. No one has ever drifted into salvation. As a matter of fact, we cannot get anything without making a decision. Nor can we get salvation. We must act. A choice is absolutely necessary. Oh then, re-

ceive Christ and receive Him now.

And remember, there is a difference between believing with the head and receiving in the heart. You believe the elevator can take you down. But you do not get down until you act on your belief and step into the elevator. You believe the train can take you to your destination. But you do not reach your destination until you act on your belief and enter the train. You believe Jesus can save you. But you are not saved until you act on your faith and trust Him. You must choose Christ, take Him, rely upon Him, give yourself to Him. It is trust that saves. Then why not trust Him now?

Are you among the thousands who believe,
But who have never trusted Christ the Lord?

Who know about Him, and defend Him, too,

And yet who do not take Him at His Word?

You always have believed, but are you His?

Have you received Him as your Saviour, true?

When was the time, the place?

Can you, my friend,

Say boldly, "He who saved you saved me, too?"

You may not know the hour, but can you say,

"The work is done; He lives within my heart;

I first believed and then I ventured all,

And gave myself to Him, no more to part."

Oh, friend, receive, receive this Saviour true,

Take Jesus now, oh make Him yours today;

You may believe, but you must trust Him, too,

For He Himself is God's appointed Way.

Christ the Only Saviour

There is only one who can save, and that One—the Lord Jesus Christ.

"I am the way . . . no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."—John 14:6.

"I," Jesus Christ. There is no other. Not religion. Not morality. Nor good works. Christ, the Son of God, is the one and only Saviour.

He is "the way." Not the way-shower. No man can get to God but by Him. Neither by Moses, nor by Buddha. Not by Mohammed or Confucius. Nor by a priest, a minister or a pope. Only by Christ. Will you then let Him save you?

"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."—Acts 4:12.

What a verse! There is no clearer statement in the Bible. Salvation in no other. No other church. No other individual. No other. Will you believe it? No other name—Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox, Coptic, Protestant, Presbyterian, Methodist, Anglican, Baptist—no other name. "Thou shalt call his name Jesus: for HE shall save." Will you, then, turn from all other and trust Him, and Him alone? He only can save you.

But will He save you? "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out," are His own words. He can cast you out or take you in. He says He will not cast you out. Then what will He do? He will take you in. Thank God for such a Saviour.

You will never go to Heaven just because you join the church,

For religion cannot save your guilty soul;
You will have to be converted, just like anybody else,
And accept the One who died to make you whole.

You will never go to Heaven just because you do your best,
Even though you turn away from every sin;
You are lost and need a Saviour, you must have Eternal Life,
Jesus Christ will have to come and dwell within.

You will never go to Heaven just because you work and pray,
For your efforts, God has said, are all in vain;
Jesus purchased your redemption, "It is finished," was His cry,
Now He bids you trust Him and be born again.

Well, my friend, have you been born again? Do you know Jesus Christ? If you know Him, then the world has lost its attraction. Things you once loved, you hate, and things you once hated, you love. "Old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (II Cor. 5:17).

But if you do not know Him, you will go your own way, follow your own inclinations, live your own life, and at last hear Him say, "I never knew you: depart from me."

Well, now, do you know Him? Do you know Him as your own personal Saviour? Nothing else matters. Your eternal destiny is at stake. Therefore, answer as before God. Do you know Him?

You may be a faithful member of the church and yet not know Him. You may be living a good life and still not know Him. Works do not save. (Eph. 2:8-9).

If you want to know Him, you may. All you have to do is to admit that you are a sinner and that you need a Saviour. God says, "All have sinned." "There is none righteous, no, not one" (Rom. 3:23, 10). Therefore, "Ye must be born again," for you have no righteousness of your own.

But if you will now accept the Lord Jesus Christ as your Sin-bearer, God will clothe you in His righteousness, and you will be acceptable to Him. "As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God." "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" (John 1:12; 6:37).

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Now Is the Time
Perhaps you know you are not saved, but you are putting it off for some other time.

There is no future time with God. "Now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." (II Cor. 6:2). God's time is "now." My friend, the hour has struck, the time is at hand. Now is the moment to decide. Tomorrow may be too late.

Whatever you do, don't procrastinate. Take Christ and take Him now. This moment eternal life may be yours. This moment you may be saved. If Satan can persuade you to put it off, you may be lost forever. Come, then, accept Him now. "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near" (Isa. 55:6). There is a time coming when He will not be found; therefore seek Him now.

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Excuses and Objections

Let me deal now with your excuses and objections. Perhaps I can help you.

1. It may be that you do not think you are lost or that you need salvation.

My friend, God would never have provided salvation for you if you were not lost. Nor would He urge you to be saved. Hence, you must be lost. But there is One who says He came "to seek and to save that which was lost." Therefore, if you are lost, and God says you are, Jesus came to find and save you, and He will save you now if you will let Him.

2. Perhaps you think you are too great a sinner and that God will not forgive you.

Hear then the Word of God. There is nothing to add. "God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."—Rom. 5:8.

"Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."—Isa. 1:18.

"God be merciful to me a sinner." Luke 18:13. He was justified, said Jesus.

"I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."—Luke 5:32.

"Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners."—I Tim. 1:15.

The Christ who forgave Mary Magdalene, the woman of Samaria, and thousands of other fallen women, will forgive you. Yes, and the Lord who saved Matthew and Zacchaeus, the pub-

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licans; Jerry McAuley, the river thief; and Mel Trotter, the drunkard, can save you, too. And the God who had mercy on John Bunyan, the blasphemer, and John Newton, the foul-mouthed slave-trader, will have mercy on you. You are not too great a sinner.

3. It may be that you think you are good enough as you are and do not need to be converted.

Again I give you God's Word instead of mine. Let it suffice.

"All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."—Rom. 3:23.

"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way."—Isa. 53:6.

"Whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all."—Jas. 2:10.

"All our righteousnesses are as filthy rags."—Isa. 64:6.

"Except ye be converted . . . ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."—Matt. 18:3.

4. Perhaps you think you have committed the unpardonable sin and that it is now too late.

Tell me, are you anxious? Are you concerned? Do you want to be saved? Then you have not yet crossed the deadline. When you have said "No" for the last time, the Spirit will cease to strive, and all will be over. But if you are still interested, then the Spirit has not yet ceased to strive, and you may yet be saved.

On the one hand God says, "My spirit shall not always strive," but again, "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him." So then, God does draw, but you will have to respond or you will never be saved.

5. Possibly you do not come because you think there are too many hypocrites in the church.

There are no hypocrites in the true church, not one. But the

visible church is full of them. Are you surprised? Don't you know that Christ said there would be hypocrites in the church? Of course there are hypocrites, but they are going, every last one of them, to Hell.

And that, my friend, is where you, too, are going if you are not saved—to Hell—to the abode of the hypocrites. And yet you do not want to associate with them for a few years here. But you are willing to spend eternity with them. What foolishness! Better a thousand times to spend a few years with them here than to be with them forever.

But if there are hypocrites, then there must be genuine Christians. Counterfeit coin always implies genuine. You may rest assured, then, that there are real, genuine believers as well as hypocrites. Why then, let the hypocrites keep you from being a Christian?

Jesus, you remember, spoke of the wheat and the tares, the true and the false, the hypocrites and the Christians, the children of Satan and the children of God. He said there were bad fish as well as good. And these hypocrites, mark you, were so like the genuine that only the angels could distinguish them. Don't let the hypocrites keep you out of Heaven.

6. Perhaps you argue that you have tried before and failed.

I suppose you mean you made a profession or joined the church. Or possibly you turned over a new leaf. But, tell me, did you receive Jesus Christ as your Saviour? Were you born again?

You see, it makes a difference. God keeps His own. He takes care of those who are His children. He does not look after the devil's children. Had you been God's child He would have kept you. The probability is that you made a start of some kind, you reformed, perhaps, you united with the church, but you were never born again. If you were, then you failed to trust Christ. God says He is "able to keep you from falling." Look then to Jesus, receive Him as your Saviour and trust Him to keep you.

7. Perhaps you are saying that you don't feel like it.

Well, you may not feel like climbing over the side of the ship and getting into the lifeboat. You are deathly sick, but the ship is sinking, and while you don't feel like it, you know perfectly well that you must do it and do it quickly or it will be too late, and so you get into the lifeboat and you are saved.

Why go by feeling? You know what you must do. You realize now that you are lost and that only Jesus can save you. Why don't you let Him, feelings or no feelings? Do it and do it now.

8. Perhaps you are afraid you can't give up your sins.

That, my friend, is your only genuine reason for rejecting Christ. Only you do not mean you can't; you mean you won't. You

can if you will. And what is more, you must or you will perish eternally.

Do you not know that Christ can deliver you? He can break every fetter and snap every chain. "He breaks the power of cancelled sin and sets the prisoner free." When cures have failed and self-effort has been in vain, Jesus Christ can rescue you and set you free. He can take away even the desire for sin. Habits of years standing He can break. Oh, what a Saviour!

Why Still Refuse

Why now, do you still refuse to accept Jesus Christ as your Saviour?

With some people it is because they are ignorant. They do not know about God's salvation. But it cannot be that with you, for you do know. You have heard. Therefore you are not ignorant.

With some it is pride. It was pride with Naaman. He had a great opinion of himself, and he expected to be honoured, for as he stood before the door of Elisha, he thought the prophet would "do some great thing," something that would be worthy of his exalted position. He said "I thought."

Is it pride that keeps you back? Are you ashamed to "wash, and be clean?" Have you refused to walk down an aisle and kneel as a penitent sinner? Are you unwilling to be saved God's way. Do you insist on your own? Pride, my friend, must go. You must come God's way and just as you are, in true humility, if you are to be saved. It isn't what you think; it is what God says. O then, put away your prejudice and pride; you are a sinner just like anybody else, no matter who you are.

With some it is unbelief. They allow their intellects to get in their way, and they just will not believe. It is my experience, however, that the man who says he cannot believe is holding on to sin. If he would give up his sin, his intellectual problems would be solved. He is an atheist, an infidel, a skeptic, a doubter because he is living in sin. How is it with you?

With most it is an unwillingness to accept Christ. Just that and nothing else. Men will not take Christ. What about you? Are you, too, unwilling to let Jesus Christ come into your heart and life? Have you, too, rejected Him? Oh, my friend, reverse your decision. Give yourself to the Saviour. Accept Him and accept Him now.

God's Voice of Warning

Have you not heard God's voice of warning, and if you have, dare you ignore it? Listen!

"The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved."—Jer. 8:20.

"He, that being often reproved hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy."—Prov. 29:1.

"It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment."—Heb. 9:27.

"Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."—John 3:3.

"Except ye repent, ye shall . . . perish."—Luke 13:3.

"Except ye be converted . . . ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."—Matt. 18:3.

"Because there is wrath, beware" (Job 36:18).

God warns you. Trifle not. His Word can never be broken. His appointments must be kept. Delay not, lest 'sudden destruction' overtake you. Do you not tremble

when He says, "Ye shall . . . perish"? Has the "judgment" no terrors for you? Will you face death as you are? Has your summer ended, and are you "not saved"? God help you to heed His voice before it is forever too late.

Questions and Answers

Now let me ask you some questions, questions that God Himself answers.

1. Do you not realize that you are a sinner in the sight of God?

Some people lop off the branches, but they fail to recognize that the tree itself is bad. They pick off the sour apples, but next year there are more than ever. It is not your sins God is concerned about; it is the fact that you are a sinner. Your nature is corrupt. Hence, there must be a new graft if there are to be sweet apples. So, too, there must be a reception of a new life—God life divine life, eternal life—if you are to have a new nature. Make the tree good, and its fruit will be good also. Come to Him then as a sinner. Don't attempt to improve yourself; come as you are. Not reformation but regeneration. It is a new life that you need, for in your Adamic nature you are bad, bad throughout. You are a sinner, and a sinner needs a Saviour.

2. Do you not know that God loves you?

Yes, my friend, God loves you. "God so loved . . . that he gave." He gave "his only begotten Son." No matter what you have done, God loves you. He does not love your sin, but He does love you. You may not love the diphtheria, but you love your child. "God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8). Some die for the good; Christ died for the bad.

He "loved me and gave himself for me" (Gal. 2:20). An individual. One person—you. He loved you, and He gave Himself for you. Oh, what love!

"Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood" (Rev. 1:5). First He loved, then He washed. "In his love and in his pity he redeemeth them" (Isa. 63:9). Yes, He loved them first; then He redeemed them. They were slaves, but He loved them, nevertheless, and because He loved them, He redeemed them. Oh what love!

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

3. Do you not know that God does not want you to be lost?

"The Lord is . . . not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."—II Pet. 3:9.

"As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live."—Ezek. 33:11.

That, my friend, should be sufficient. God does not want you to perish. He says so. He wants you to be saved. Why then be lost?

4. Are you not aware of the fact that Christ became your substitute?

Just as Abraham offered a ram "in the stead of" his son, Isaac, so God offered Christ for you.

Just as Christ died on the cross

in the place of Barabbas, so, too, He died instead of you.

"Christ . . . suffered . . . the just for the unjust" (I Pet. 3:18). Thus, my friend, He became your substitute. He suffered in your place, bore your penalty, that you might be saved.

Well now, what are you going to do about it? He is waiting for you to decide. Will you try to be your own saviour, or will you take Him as your Substitute?

The Five Most Important Questions

Perhaps you have never considered the five most important questions in the Bible. Hear them!

"What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"—Mark 8:36.

"How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?"—Heb. 2:3.

"What must I do to be saved?"—Acts 16:30.

"What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ?"—Matt. 27:22.

"How long halt ye between two opinions?"—I Kings 18:21.

Solemn questions, these, and worthy of your most serious consideration. What, How, and Why? God asks. Can you answer? Well then, why halt? Why don't you decide? What are you waiting for? Do you want to be saved? Why not now?

God's Words of Exhortation

Do you mean to say that you have never given ear to God's words of exhortation? Listen!

"Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is none else."—Isa. 45:22.

"Choose you this day whom ye will serve."—Josh. 24:15.

"Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near; Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon."—Isa. 55:6-7.

Have you looked? That is all you have to do—look. But look in faith. Look, not to your works, your church, your religion, your self, but to Christ. "Look unto Me." Then you will be saved.

"Choose." Have you made your choice? No one can choose for you. "This day." You are to act and act now. "Whom." Not what you will do, but the one, Christ or Satan, you will serve. And when you finally make your choice, if you are really saved, you will serve the Lord Jesus Christ as long as you live.

"Seek." Have you sought? "Seek and ye shall find" (Matt. 7:7). "Ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart" (Jer. 29:13). "Those that seek me early shall find me" (Prov. 8:17).

God has promised mercy, mercy and an abundant pardon, to all who seek Him. But seek Him now, for there will come a day when He will not be found.

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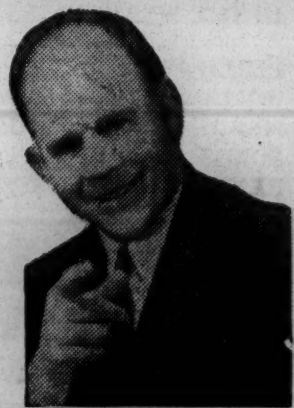
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Why You Should Be Saved

If you were to ask me why you should be saved, my answer would be five-fold:

First, because God loves you.

Second, because Christ died for you.

Third, because judgment faces you.

Fourth, because Hell awaits you.

Fifth, because Heaven beckons you.

If you, my friend, are prepared to ignore the love of God and the death of Christ, then you will face the judgment, go to Hell, and miss Heaven, in spite of all I can say.

"It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Heb. 9:27). You may break your appointments with men, but you cannot break God's appointment with you. Death is certain, and there is no escape. The King of Terrors will not be denied. Judgment, too, is certain, and you must face it.

You say there is no Hell. God says there is. Hence, there may be. You do not take out insurance because you are certain of an early death but because you may die early, and, if you should, your dependents would be protected. You admit that there may be a

Hell. Suppose there is not. You have lost nothing. But, if there is, and you die unsaved, then you will lose everything. Why not play safe? There may be a Hell. God says there is. Oh, then, "Flee from the wrath to come."

But will you still go on in your sin? Have you not learned that the way of transgressors is hard? (Prov. 13:15). Ah, yes, my friend, Satan is indeed a hard task-master. There is nothing but sorrow in sin. "There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked."

And remember, you can never undo what is done. "What I have written I have written" (John 19:22), said Pilate. All your tears and prayers will be in vain. Repent as much as you will, reform and live as perfect a life as you can—the marks, the memory, will still be there. You cannot erase it. You draw out the nails, but not the holes. Oh sin! sin! What a monster it is!

But, thank God, you can be forgiven. The blood of Christ can cleanse your heart. You can be justified—accounted righteous. "The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin" (1 John 1:7). "Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red

like crimson, they shall be as wool" (Isa. 1:18).

Therefore, my friend, you should be saved. I urge you because God loves you, Christ died for you, judgment faces you, Hell awaits you, and Heaven beckons you—to be saved.

Four Things to Do

Well now, are you forgiven? Have you accepted Jesus Christ as your Saviour? Does God's Spirit bear witness with your spirit that you have passed from death unto life? (Rom. 8:16). Have you been born again, and do you know it? If so, there are four things I want to ask you to do:

First, take a public stand for Christ.

I say, a public stand. Don't try to be a secret believer, for it won't work. Unfurl your flag and come out in the open. Confess Christ at every opportunity. Tell others about Him. Don't hide your light. "Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words, . . . of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed" (Mark 8:38). If you want Him to acknowledge you, then you must acknowledge Him. If you want to grow rapidly, confess Him openly. Do it at once. Don't wait. Start now. There is nothing like it.

Second, turn from all you know to be wrong.

As His Spirit indwells, you will be delivered. "Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world" (1 John 4:4). "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (II Cor. 5:17). He gives you a new nature, a nature that loves righteousness and hates iniquity. The Holy Spirit is His Enablement. He sets you free. You can now overcome. "Sin shall not have dominion over you" (Rom. 6:14).

But you must choose righteousness and forsake sin. Turn your back on it. Put it away. Set your regenerated will against it. "Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good" (Romans 12:9). That besetting sin of yours—run from it. Slay utterly every Canaanite alive. Destroy your Achan. Have no dealings with sin. "If I regard iniquity in my heart the Lord will not hear me" (Psa. 66:18). When you mean business, God will deliver you. All you have to do is plead the merits of the blood and the power of the name of Jesus. "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body" (Rom. 6:12). Come clean. Be through with sin. "Yield not to temptation." "Cease to do evil; learn to do well" (Isa. 1:16-17).

Third, spend much time in Bible study and prayer.

The more you read the Bible, the more you will want to read it. If you want to grow in grace, meet God every day. Have a place and a time for prayer and Bible study. Be a Bible Christian. Never let a day pass without spending time alone with God. "As newborn babes, desire the sin-

cere milk of the Word, that ye may grow thereby" (1 Pet. 2:2).

"Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word" (Psa. 119:9). If you neglect the Word, you will backslide. If you learn how to pray, you will make rapid strides in the Christian life.

Fourth, keep busy in the service of God.

Satan always finds mischief for idle hands to do. Therefore, find something to do. Give out gospel tracts. Get into some live, soul-winning church. Don't wait to be asked to do something. Pray about it and get busy. Sing in the choir. Get into the young people's work. Attend the prayer meeting. Become a personal worker. Teach a Sunday School class. Help in the street meetings. Visit the poor, the sick, the imprisoned. Give your testimony. Put first things first.

Do something, but avoid cold, formal, modernistic churches. Go where the gospel is preached and the invitation given. Associate with spiritual people, people with a testimony, people who can pray, people who love to sing gospel hymns. Keep away from choirs that sing anthems and ministers that never invite sinners to come down the aisles to the inquiry room.

Have nothing to do with worldly churches where the play room takes the place of the prayer room, and there is no separation. Go where people are being converted and where the message is "Ye must be born again." Never mind the denomination. If you can find a spiritual, soul-winning, missionary ministry, that is all you want.

Choose

My friend, I am through. I need say no more. "I call Heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life" (Deut. 30:19).

"As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:14, 15).

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life; and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him" (John 3:36).

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that heareth my word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life" (John 5:24).

"The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom. 6:23).

"God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He that hath the Son hath the life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not the life" (1 John 5:11, 12).

"Him that cometh to me I will

in no wise cast out" (John 6:37).

I take Thee, Lord, I take Thee now,

*For Thou didst die for me;
On Calvary Thy blood was shed,
From sin to set me free.*

*I trust, dear Lord, I trust in Thee,
Thou Saviour of my soul;
With all my heart I now believe,
My guilt on Thee I roll.*

*I yield, dear Lord, I yield to Thee,
Thy love has won my heart;
And from Thy side, O Saviour,
mine,
I'll never more depart.*

*I come, dear Lord, I come to Thee,
Constrained by love alone;
I come with all my sin and shame,
And claim Thee as my own.*

My Decision For Christ

You have read the above clear strong message on salvation by Dr. Oswald J. Smith. If you have not already repented of your sins and trusted Christ for salvation, will you not do that today? If with all your heart you take Christ as your own Saviour, will you not sign the following statement, copy it, or clip it out and send it to me, or write your decision in your own words?

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Amazing Grace

De Old Ark's A-Moverin'

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We Shall Rise

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War for Souls Goes On

(Continued from page one)

on the dance, two from the pamphlet, *Neglect—the Shortest Way to Hell*, and one from a sermon in the *Sword of the Lord*, "Stop, Look, and Listen."

For your encouragement, we give you letters from several who were saved through the *Sword of the Lord* or Dr. Rice's booklets.

Booklet Leads to Conversion of Old Man Before Death

"July 25, 1945

"Dear Brother Rice:

"Within the last few weeks a friend told me of the blessed ministry which the Lord performed in the life of an aged, lost man through one of your good tracts, *What Must I Do to Be Saved?*, and I feel that you would like to hear about the incident.

"It seems that the old fellow was rather confused in his mind as to just how to be saved, as so many many poor and ignorant souls are. But one of your tracts reached his hands (I think, probably, the tract was one of the

ones you or your staff had sent to me to distribute); and the old fellow just ate it, it seems, and from it he received the glorious light of the gospel of free salvation by grace through simple faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. He left behind him, at his death, the grand and comforting testimony that he was saved.

"The preacher brother who told this story to me understood that the tract was definitely the means by which the gospel light was revealed to that dear old man (and that not very long before his death). Praise God . . .

"Yours by His grace,"

(Signed) E. Raymond Dykes, Jasper, Alabama.

Young Woman Gives Life to Christ

"August 1, 1945

"Dear Brother Rice:

"Just a line to tell you how much I enjoyed reading your book. It has made salvation plain for me. How I thank God that He is a living God, that our sins can be washed away, and we can be saved once for all! I wish to thank you so much for the little book. I'm so glad that I have taken the Lord Jesus Christ for my Saviour and I trust Him. I want to live

(Continued on page eight)

THE PLACE OF PRAYER IN REVIVALS

(Continued from page two)

was so overcome with a sense of the divine goodness in hearing and answering prayer, and with a felt assurance that he would hear and answer prayer for the revival of his work in Adams, that I went through the house weeping aloud like a child. . . . At the next meeting of the young people, I proposed that we should observe a closet concert of prayer for the revival of God's work, that we should pray at sunrise, at noon, and at sunset, in our closets, and continue this for one week, when we should come together again and see what farther was to be done. No other means were used for the revival of God's work. But the spirit of prayer was immediately poured out wonderfully upon the young converts. Before the week was out I learned that some of them, when they would attempt to observe this season of prayer, would lose all their strength and be unable to rise to their feet, or even stand upon their knees in their closets; and that some would lie prostrate on the floor, and pray with unutterable groanings for the out-pouring of the Spirit of God."

Finney's next statement reads, "The Spirit was poured out, and before the week ended all the meetings were thronged; and there was as much interest in religion, I think, as there had been at any time during the revival."

Listen to this same man in another testimony, speaking of a time when he and another man went out and prayed for a special service. In that prayer out there in the woods God gave a definite assurance of victory. "As the time came for meeting, we left the woods and went to the village. The people were already thronging to the place of worship and those who had not already gone, seeing us go through the village, turned out of their stores and places of business, or threw down their ball clubs where they were playing upon the green, and packed the house to its utmost capacity."

Then when he arose to preach, he had this to say, "The Spirit of God came upon me with such power, that it was like opening a battery upon them. For more than an hour, and perhaps for an hour and a half, the Word of God came through me to them in such a manner that I could see it was carrying all before it. It was a fire and a hammer breaking the rock, and as the sword that was piercing to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit. I saw that a general conviction was spreading over the whole congregation. Many of them could not hold up their heads."

Brother, that is what my poor heart is crying for today. If God would put His Spirit like that on Charles G. Finney, God can do it to Joe Hankins. He is no respecter of persons. God can do it to John Rice. And, brother, that is what we need—not only what we need, but hear me, that is what we must have!

In the revival of Wales in 1905 (that is not an ancient time—many of you were living at that time as I was), G. Campbell Morgan, that great preacher in England who was on the scene at the time of that mighty Welsh revival, went into his pulpit and preached this sermon from which I read an extract or two.

"Let us look at the Welsh revival more generally. Let me speak of some of the incidental peculiarities of the revival as I saw it,

and gathered information concerning it on the ground. In connection with the awakening there is no preaching, no order, no hymn-books, no choirs, no organs, no collection, and finally, no advertising."

Think of that for a moment again, will you? Think of all our work. I am not saying these things are wrong. I simply want you to see what God was doing. G. Campbell Morgan continues, "There were the organs, but silent; the ministers, but among the people, rejoicing and prophesying with the rest, only there was no preaching. Yet the Welsh revival is the revival of preaching in Wales. Everybody is preaching. No order, yet it moves from day to day, week to week, county to county, with matchless precision, with the order of an attacking force. No song books, but ah, me, I nearly wept tonight over the singing of our last hymn. When the Welsh sing they abandon themselves to their singing. We sing as though we thought it would not be respectable to be heard by the one next to us. No choir, did I say? It was all choir!"

"Whence has it come? All over Wales—I am giving you roughly the result of the questioning of fifty or more persons at random in the week—a praying remnant has been agonizing before God about the state of the beloved land, and it is through prayer the answer of fire has come.

"What effect is this work producing upon men? First of all, it is turning Christians everywhere into evangelists. There is nothing more remarkable about it than that, I think. People you never expected to see doing this kind of thing are becoming personal workers. The revival is characterized by the most remarkable confessions of sin, confessions that must be costly. I heard some of them, men rising who had been members of the church, and officers of the church, confessing hidden sin in their heart, impurity committed and condoned, and seeking prayer for its putting away."

Then he mentions things in the way of a revival: "The church needs first to set itself to get things out of the way for God. What things? I do not know. All the things that are in His way: your habit that you know is un-

holy; your method in business that will not bear the light of day; your unforgiving heart toward a church member. Oh, God forgive me that I mention anything! You know, you know! They are in God's way, these things. They must be cleared out. That is the first thing. There may be other things in God's way. Any organization in church life that does not make for the salvation of men is a fungus growth and the sooner we drop it off the better. . . . Are we ready to put things out of the way for God? I think we are," says this great preacher. "Oh, if there is anything, we must be prepared to sweep everything out for God to have highway."

Then hear his last word and that impassioned plea: "Oh, God, lay the world's needs on our hearts. There is nothing so important as the saving of men, and when the church says that, and is ready, God will come. We need then to wait upon Him in earnest, constant prayer. Oh brothers, sisters, pray! Pray! Pray alone! Pray in secret."

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the rest of my life for the Lord. And how I thank the Lord for this little book that brought salvation so plainly to me. May God bless you always.

"Your friend in Christ,"
(Signed) Miss D. C. Crosby, Tennessee.

Soldier of Occupation Force Happy Over Conversion

"10 August 45

"Dear Brother Rice:

"Tonight I was reading your booklet and enclosed is my written confession. I now know, after more than ten years, that I have been forgiven for my sins. I have left it all to Him, my life and all.

"Something seemed to come over me and I felt so good. I couldn't believe it was really myself. I kept repeating to myself, 'I'm saved, I'm saved.' It was a wonderful feeling!"

"Love,"

(Signed) Cpl. Paul F. K. Munich, Germany.

"P. S. Excuse writing. I'm shaking all over. Such a wonderful feeling of relief in knowing that He has forgiven!"

Reports Two Saved: Lady Now Gone to Heaven; Prisoner

"Sir:

"A lady signed your decision to **What Must I Do to Be Saved?** She is gone to Heaven now. A man in Walla Walla, Washington, prison has signed it too."

(Signed) Stanley McPherson, Santa Monica, California.

Doubts Settled by Sword Sermons

"August 23, 1945

"Dear Dr. Rice:

"I just finished reading your sermons on **Neglect—The Shortest Way to Hell and A Good Man Lost and a Bad Man Saved.** They helped me so much, and I passed them on to a friend. I am a member of the First Baptist Church of Omaha, and was baptized when I was a child. I have always tried to be a Christian. The Lord helped me to find a young Christian man whom I married. But back in my mind I have worried about the fact that although I remembered my baptism very well, I could not remember the actual experience of confessing myself a sinner to the Lord Jesus Christ. Your two above mentioned sermons showed me that I was not saved, even though I have led as nearly a Christian life as possible. Of course we all sin and come short of the glory of God. After reading those two sermons, I asked the Lord to have mercy on me, a sinner, and to save my soul. Thank you, Dr. Rice, for helping me through those two sermons."

(Signed) Mrs. M. F. H. Hastings, Nebraska.

Prayer and Effort of Long Years Rewarded

"August 15, 1945

"Dear Brother Rice:

"I have read your sermon on **Neglect—The Shortest Way to Hell.** I know I have been guilty of this sin. I have gone on with-

out forgiveness. I have neglected my soul's salvation and neglected Christ. Today I confess to God I am a sinner. Today I accept the offer of mercy which He gives. This very day I trust Christ to forgive my sins and save my soul. I give Him my heart. I claim Him as my Savior. I write this letter to let you know of my decision. Today I believe God forgives me because He said He would. By His help, I will try to live for Him the remainder of my life."

(Signed) G. F. P. Memphis, Tennessee.

"P. S. Copy of **MY DECISION FOR CHRIST**, mailed this day to Mrs. C. T. Pegram, 260 West End Boulevard, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, my dear friend who has shown untiring perseverance and interest in my soul's salvation. And I am mighty happy right now that she sent me your powerful sermon, **Neglect—The Shortest Way to Hell**, which convinced me of the danger in further delay. May the dear Lord bless you both for so thoroughly selling me on the idea that the Lord's way should be my way from now on.

"Sincerely and gratefully,"

G. F. P.

Soldiers Blessed by "What Must I Do to Be Saved?"

"August 5, 1945

"Dear Brother Rice:

"I want to write just a few lines to try to tell you how grateful I am to you for the work you are doing. The small booklet, **What Must I Do to Be Saved?**, has certainly made a much happier man out of me, formerly a hard-hearted sinner.

"I pray that, by the help of God, lots more fellows in the service and out, will turn to the right side of life, and start their journey to Heaven. Praise God!"

"Pray for me that I may not turn back. May God bless you."

(Signed) W. L. S. Kassel, Germany.

"August 15, 1945

"My Dear Brother Rice:

"Only a few lines to let you hear from me. I am well in health, and do hope when these lines reach your loving hands, they will find you well and doing fine, and in the best of health. I have just finished reading one of your books that is called, **What Must I Do to Be Saved?** I think it is wonderful to know who you can call on to be saved. Thank you for guiding me, and many others, to the way of God and His Son. We are having Bible reading, and we would like to have more of your fine Christian literature. Thank you very much.

"Yours truly,"

(Signed) C. H. W. France.

(This man tells us he writes for ten others as well as himself.)

Private Prays in Battle, Saved

"Dear Sir:

"I will tell you how I came to read your book. It was after a great air raid, and in my fox hole that night I tried to pray and

there I knew I was a sinner and the next day I saw one of your books, **What Must I Do to Be Saved?** I read it and passed it on to another boy in my company and now I know that I am a child of God, thanks to you. But we still need your prayers."

(Signed) Pfc. G. L. T. c/o Postmaster, San Francisco.

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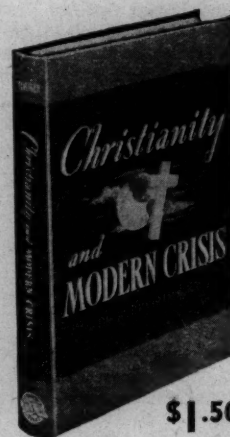
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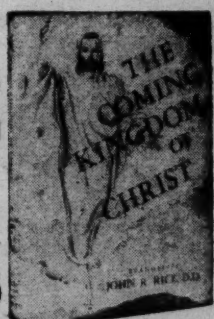


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